DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 322 905 IR 053 218

AUTHOR Piotrowski, Chris
TITLE CD-ROMs in College and University Libraries.
PUB DATE 89
NOTE 6p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Academic Libraries; *Access to Information; *Bibliographic Databases; Higher Education; Information Retrieval; *Library Expenditures; Library Surveys; *Optical Data Disks; Psychology; Reference Materials; *Research Tools
IDENTIFIERS ERIC

ABSTRACT

In the fall of 1988, a survey was conducted to evaluate the adoption of CD-ROM systems in U.S. colleges and universities by examining which major CD-ROM databases were available through the reference departments of academic libraries. The sample was composed of 200 institutions of higher education offering graduate degrees in psychology. The survey form was sent to the database coordinator at each institution, with a 65% response rate. ERIC was found to be most often cited, with 49% of the respondents reporting availability of this database on CD-ROM. Other bibliographic databases cited include: PsychLIT (20%); INFOTRAC/INFOTRACII (18%); Social Science Index (8%); Compact Disclosure (8%); Business Periodicals Index (7%); Books in Print Plus (7%); Dissertation Abstracts (5%); Reader's Guide (5%); MEDLINE (5%); and Newsbank (5%). No CD-ROMS were reportedly available at 29% of the academic libraries. Responses on the comments section of the survey indicate that CD-ROM technology is being cautiously adopted by academic libraries, largely because of the high costs of installation and maintenance. It was also found that some institutions are concerned that the present CD-ROM technology will become rapidly outdated. It is suggested that academic libraries should consider purchasing CD-ROM databases in the behavioral and social sciences. (9 references) (SD)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED322905

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

CD-ROMs in College and University Libraries

Chris Piotrowski

Department of Psychology
University of West Florida
Pensacola, FL 32514-5752

IR053218

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Chris Piotrowski

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

CD-ROM technology has recently received much attention in the media, generally in the information science field, in online conferences as well as in institutions of higher education (Embry & Neely, 1989; Miller, 1986). Several handbooks, trade publications, and professional periodicals stress the important role of CD-ROM technology in contemporary research strategies (Oppenheim, 1988; Sherman, 1988). As the cost of computer hardware and annual updates is high, most CD-ROM systems are beyond the reach of the individual or casual user. Since marketing CD-ROMs is usually directed toward institutions of higher learning, it would be instructive to determine the availability of CD-ROM technology. This paper reports on a recent survey of the adoption of CD-ROM systems in college and university libraries in the U.S.A.

The sample for this survey was comprised of 200 institutions of higher learning that offered graduate degrees in psychology. The survey form was sent to the Database Coordinator at each institution during the Fall of 1988. From 200 potential respondents, 130 replied for a 65% response rate. The following are the results of the major CD-ROM databases available in reference departments of academic libraries based on the 130 respondents.

ERIC was far and away the most popular CD-ROM in major colleges and universities. Apparently, ERIC is considered a multi-disciplinary research retrieval tool and considered mandatory in academic reference departments.

CD-ROMs Implemented in Academic Libraries

	N	%
No CD-ROMs available	38	29
ERIC	64	49
PsycLIT	26	20
INFOTRAC/INFOTRAC II	23	18
SOCIAL SCIENCE INDEX	10	8
COMPACT DISCLOSURE	10	8
BUSINESS PERIODICALS INDEX	9	7
BOOKS IN PRINT PLUS	9	7
DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS	7	5
READER'S GUIDE	7	5
MEDLINE	7	5
NEWSBANK	7	5

In addition, 10 respondents indicated that PsycLIT (PsycINFO database) was either on order or being considered for library acquisition. A comments section of the survey showed that CD-ROM technology is being cautiously adopted by academic libraries, largely because the cost of installation and maintenance of most CD-ROM systems is high. For example, ERIC seems to be quite popular and used by half of our sample, partly because its cost is low relative to other CD-ROMs currently available. Another concern is based on a

fear in some institutions that the present technology will become rapidly outdated. While CD-ROMs are a popular topic in the literature (Arnold, 1987; Downing, 1988; Salomon, 1988) their acceptance for use is largely determined by financial constraints and technology concerns of individual institutions. Nearly one-third of our sample did not possess any systems, and several large university libraries owned 10 different CD-ROM systems.

It would seem incumbent on institutions of higher learning to consider purchase of CD-ROMs in the social and behavioral sciences. For example, INFOTRAC indexes many literature sources such as APA journals and business information in organizational/industrial psychology of interest to researchers. In fact, the availability of CD-ROMs has greatly improved the accessibility of information and scholarly research for students and seasoned researchers in the behavioral sciences. Future surveys should focus on CD-ROM use by library patrons and the efficacy of such use compared to traditional online database searching (Piotrowski & Perdue, 1986; Piotrowski & Perdue, 1988).

REFERENCES

Arnold, S. (1987). Electronic information on CD - A product or a service? Online, 11, 56-60.

Downing, J. (1988). Planning for CD-ROM technology: Or, how to stop worrying and embrace the CD-ROM. RSR: Reference Services Review, 16, 21-26.

Embry, C., & Neely, G.S. (1989). To market, to market: Academic reference departments and the promotion of CD-ROMs in 1989. The Southeastern Librarian, 39(4), 143-144.

Miller, D.C. (1986). Laser disks at the library door: The Microsoft First International Conference on CD-ROM. Library Hi Tech, 4, 55-68.

Oppenheim, C. (1988). CD-ROM: Fundamentals to applications. London: Butterworths.

Piotrowski, C., & Perdue, B. (1986). Online literature retrieval: An alternative research strategy. Teaching of Psychology, 13, 153-154.

Piotrowski, C., & Perdue, B. (1988). Multi-database searching in forensic psychology. Forensic Reports, 1, 55-63.

Salomon, K. (1988). The impact of CD-ROM on reference departments. RQ, 28, 203-219.

Sherman, C. (1988). The CD-ROM handbook. New York: McGraw-Hill.